



This is “Preface”, article 4 from the book [Getting the Most Out of Information Systems \(index.html\)](#) (v. 2.0).

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Preface

Thanks for using this book. I very much hope that you enjoy it!

I find the space where business and technology meet to be tremendously exciting, but it's been painful to see the anemic national enrollment trends in tech disciplines. The information systems (IS) course should be the most exciting class within any university. No discipline is having a greater impact on restructuring work, disrupting industries, and creating opportunity. And none more prominently features young people as leaders and visionaries. But far too often students resist rather than embrace the study of tech.

My university has had great success restructuring the way we teach our IS core courses, and much of the material used in this approach has made it into this book. The results we've seen include a fourfold increase in IS enrollments in four years, stellar student ratings for the IS core course, a jump in student placement, an increase in the number of employers recruiting on campus for tech-focused jobs, and the launch of several student-initiated start-ups.

Material in this book is used at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. I think it's a mistake to classify books as focused on just grad or undergrad students. After all, we'd expect our students at all levels to be able to leverage articles in the *Wall Street Journal* or *BusinessWeek*. Why can't our textbooks be equally useful?

You'll also find this work to be written in an unconventional style for a textbook, but hey, why be boring? Let's face it, *Fortune* and *Wired* wouldn't sell a single issue if forced to write with the dry-encyclopedic prose used by most textbooks. Many students and faculty have written with kind words for the tone and writing style used in this book, and it's been incredibly rewarding to hear from students who claim they have actually looked forward to assigned readings and have even read ahead or explored unassigned chapters. I hope you find it to be equally engaging.

The mix of chapter and cases is also meant to provide a holistic view of how technology and business interrelate. Don't look for an "international" chapter, an "ethics" chapter, a "mobile" chapter, or a "systems development and deployment" chapter. Instead, you'll see these topics woven throughout many of our cases and within chapter examples. This is how professionals encounter these topics "in the wild," so we ought to study them not in isolation but as integrated parts of real-world examples. Examples are consumer-focused and Internet-heavy for

approachability, but the topics themselves are applicable far beyond the context presented.

There's a lot that's different about this approach, but a lot that's worked exceptionally well, too. I hope that you find the material to be as useful as we have. I also look forward to continually improving this work, and I encourage you to share your ideas with me via Twitter (@gallaughier) or the Web (<http://www.gallaughier.com>).

Best wishes!

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